

Many Men of Many Minds

Mark Sullivan.—Something has gone out of politics and something has gone out of life for all of us. Something has happened that makes our daily paths less interesting. Something has robbed the morning papers of the stimulus they once had. That thing is the passing of three great American personalities (Roosevelt, Wilson and Bryan)—three men who really were leaders—one very great and two only in a degree less big.

Senator Warren G. Harding.—The time has come when, as a nation, we must determine upon a definite agricultural policy. We must decide whether we shall undertake to make of the United States a self-sustaining nation—or whether we shall continue to exploit our agricultural resources for the benefit of our industrial or commercial life, and leave to posterity the task of finding food enough, by strong-arm methods if necessary, to support the coming hundreds of millions.

Viscount Kiyooka, of Kioto.—The recent war seems to have instilled in the minds of some Japanese ideas that are incompatible with the traditions of the Yamato people. If things are allowed to take their own course the sure result will be that the people will drift apart from the throne until an estrangement sets in that will spell ruin to the country at large. One of the most effective ways for the Japanese to prevent such a calamity is to foster new links of sympathy between the throne and the people and to bring them closer together. The throwing open of the detached palace in Kioto to all, instead of a privileged few, will aid greatly in realizing this object.

Sir Phillip Gibbs.—No man, unless he is blind, or drunk with optimism, can deny that Europe at the present time is very sick. During the past year I have visited many countries in Europe, and in most of them under the surface of social gaiety, the appearance of normal life, and apparent recovery from the wounds of the war, I have found a sense of impending ruin and dreadful anxiety for the future.

Thomas A. Edison.—A great deal is being said and written about spiritualism these days. But the methods and apparatus commonly used and discussed are just a lot of unscientific nonsense. I don't say that all these so-called "mediums" are simply fakers scheming to fool the public and line their own pockets. Some of them may be sincere enough. They may really have got themselves into such a state of mind that they imagine they are in communication with "spirits."

E. F. Warner.—Can you imagine yourself a palsied old man, telling your grandchildren what fish and game and birds looked like, explaining to them with pictures, or toddling hand in hand to museums or aquariums and pointing with a trembling cane and tears in your eyes, but in the back of your head the knowledge that you might have helped to save for them some of the joys of the outdoor world if you had only been awake enough to join an organization and work, work, to beat the muckers and put in a solid vote for decent conservation laws.

Edward N. Hurley.—You can sometimes tell what a man is earning by the way he acts. If he is very conceited, one of the quick know-it-all kind, you can put it down that he is earning about \$5,000 a year or less. If he is just fairly feeling his oats and not really objectionable, then he may be getting up to \$15,000. If he is very simple and unaffected, then probably his income is very large—for then he is spending none of his time thinking how much he knows, but is wholly taken up with learning more about the vast number of things which he discovers he does not know.

L. Ames Brown.—With the prohibition of liquor an accomplished fact, there is evidence of increased activity on the part of those who oppose the use of tobacco. In some well-informed quarters, the opinion appears that a national movement to suppress or greatly to restrict smoking may take definite form.

Frank H. Simonds.—The conditions out of which successful peace negotiations could arise do not seem to exist upon the Russo-Polish front. No one can believe the Russian Government would comply with any terms which it might agree to under momentary necessities. Bolshevism remains a danger to the Poles as long as Russia is under the control of Lenin and Trotsky.

W. A. Appleton, British labor leader.—What Lenin wants is to perfect an organization of social parasites and to betray the workers in all countries. He can never succeed. We will fight him to a finish, and we will be supported by the saner elements in labor everywhere.

Irving Berlin.—I feel certain I have written more failures than any other song writer on earth. But I write more failures because I write more songs than anyone else.

Queen Marie, of Rumania.—Don't ask your husband too often for money. Try to get enough at the beginning of the week to last until the end. If your husband's heart seems too elastic, forget it for a time and remember that he has a stomach. Feed him well and he will come back. Once in a while, but not too often, and preferably in unimportant matters, let him have the last word. It will please him and will not hurt you. If your husband is active and intelligent, be a good "pal"; if he is timid or slow, be a friend and a counselor.

Francesco Nitti.—I cannot believe in a revolutionary movement in Italy. Revolutionaries here can only be mad or irresponsible. If Italy experienced a revolution one-third of her population would die of starvation. I firmly believe Italy will soon overcome all her difficulties if she solves two problems—namely, the Adriatic question and the bread question, on both of which her financial settlement depends.

Meredith Nicholson.—Fooling the people is an ancient pastime. Wherever the tyranny of physical power has become impossible, rulers in all ages have resorted to hypocrisy and deceit. To the arrogant and boastful governors of Jerusalem, Isaiah addressed a warning that the hail would sweep away their refuge of lies and the waters overflow their hiding-places. It is a familiar cynicism that the people like to be fooled, but this is met by a great weight of evidence that, at a certain point, they turn upon their deceivers and destroy them.

Dr. G. Vissering, Dutch banker.—If America could see an advance toward economic union among the different states of Europe, if it could see gradually coming about a decrease in the hostility which reigns to a large extent among these different states, you would then find the psychology of the American business man much changed as to conditions over here.

Raymond Poincaré, former president of France.—I do not know whether this nation wants a president such as the American chief executive, who doesn't preside but who actually rules, but it certainly does want a president who is capable of ruling firmly, who has had the experience of authority, and who can exercise from above a sort of national control of the general trend of politics. Millerand is peculiarly prepared for this kind of a mission.

Dr. T. Coke Squance, English scientist.—I have succeeded in transforming a sapphire of faint pink hue into a beautiful ruby. During the process the luster was increased to such an extent that the stone had almost the brilliance of a diamond. X-rays easily prove a diamond's identity, a couple of seconds serving to distinguish a genuine stone from a paste one or a white sapphire. Burmese rubies are also easily distinguished from African, although by all other tests they seem the same.

Viscount Grey, former British ambassador to the United States.—The British administration, in fact, is exhibiting the helplessness of an extremely feeble government, while incurring all the odium of one that rules by force. Ireland is more discontented than ever and there is no prospect of a settlement or improvement. To this we have come after centuries of British rule, and it would be well for anyone, whether he be a Home Ruler or a Unionist, to look for the cause with a fresh mind.

Herbert Kaufman.—Progress is always born in pain. Man builds his ladders from the wreckage of his father's dares. The faults and failures of one generation suggest improvements to the next. We are evolved coral insects with all past effort underlying and supporting our ever-mounting works, always leaving sounder, broader foundations upon which our children in their turn shall build.

The bothers, bangles, rows and muddles now afflicting the earth are not food for pessimism, but rather cues for diagnosticians—they indicate where our systems have gone wrong. We never search for remedies until we find a pain.

Charles Harris Whitaker, architect.—It is utterly impossible to pack more people into New York City. Imagine the state of New York legislating to build houses in the cities when 33,000 farms were abandoned throughout the state in a single year. The housing problem cannot be solved until the land problem is dealt with.

Corrinne Roosevelt Robinson.—Women want things harder than men, they are more ardent, more focused, and if they can keep that ardent warm enough in their hearts, and yet sufficiently in check not to forego realizable ideals, they will be of immeasurable value in the future life of our great nation.

John Barton Payne, Secretary of the Interior.—There is a growing appreciation of our national parks, and the country is beginning, perhaps dimly, to realize the great service they are rendering. Two projects have been presented proposing to invade the Yellowstone to build dams to store water. Any such encroachment upon the Yellowstone, in my judgment, is not necessary, and will do very great harm; and should not be permitted.

Thomas E. Wilson, Chicago meat packer.—The manufacture of luxuries is being curtailed. The spending fever is abating. Commodity prices are falling and further deflation seems to be in progress.

Senator Hiram W. Johnson.—Free speech has been threatened not in the interest of patriotism, but for existing power. A free press has been endangered. The necessary restrictions of war-time have been inexcusably prolonged in peace and our government has strayed far from those fundamental principles, upon which for more than a century and a quarter the republic so securely has rested.

George P. Hampton, managing director of Farmers' National Council.—Under the present system of distribution of farm products it is clear that farmers have no assurance of costs of production plus a fair profit. A most important factor in placing the farmers at the mercy of the middlemen is the relative ease with which middlemen hoarders secure credit while the farmers are unable to secure credit at all, or can do so only on terms which render their business, on the average, a non-commercial undertaking.

Bernard Shaw.—The hunger strike is the practical form of the determination to die rather than submit to a decreed punishment. A prudent government will, therefore, be very careful how it decrees any punishment, because in the event of its victim hunger striking, it will be forced to reduce itself and the law generally to absurdity by an unconditional surrender, or else go through with it and become responsible to the public conscience for the victim's death.

Lyman Abbott.—An unfinished work is always an imperfect work. The apple in June is quite different from the same apple in October. The apparent imperfections in a growing world puzzle me no more than the imperfections in a growing boy. They add to the interest of the process which I am watching.

Nicholas Murray Butler.—The presidential preference primary system has failed, as it was bound to fail. It is unsound in theory, unworkable in practice, and as un-American as any political device that has been suggested by anybody. This system has invited, in fact has almost compelled, huge expenditures on the part of those who have fallen victims to its solicitations, and yet it has proved nothing except that the great mass of American voters await with entire confidence the result of unprejudiced and untrammelled discussion by the delegates to the national convention. As a method of exaggerating the importance of small minorities this method is quite ideal.

Uel W. Lamkin.—The United States was the only country in the war which discharged its men from military service before the questions of compensation, rehabilitation, where provided at all, and continued medical care were settled.

Dr. V. K. Wellington Koo, Chinese minister to the United States.—What the Chinese people would like to see is the friendly powers giving up their consular jurisdiction and permitting China to exercise tariff autonomy. If we had it, the majority of China's financial ills would be remedied in no time and we could regulate the tariff to answer our financial needs to better purpose.

Lincoln Wilbar.—The only thing that has saved and will continue to save the English from a fifth-rate place in the world is the fact that they are not good losers.

Rev. Dr. John Roach Stratton.—To make her a better mother and to make her home a better home and her child a better child, it is wise and right that woman has been given the ballot. The result will be not to lower woman's standards, but to enable her effectively to apply her higher standard to every department of our modern life.

John Burroughs.—The flying squirrel has little or no advantage over the gray squirrel, and in speed and nimbleness cannot compare with him. If he misses his footing and falls, he is sure to catch on the next branch; if the connection be broken, he leaps recklessly for the nearest spray or limb, and obtains his hold, even if it be by the aid of his teeth.